

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (Canceled).

1 16. (Currently amended) Method for the production of a  
2 semifinished product (10) of composite material, in which  
3 ~~fibers (12) that are of high tensile strength as well as~~  
4 fibers are coated metallically namely with titanium or a  
5 titanium based alloy and are then consolidated under the  
6 ~~influence of~~ pressure at high temperature to form the  
7 semifinished product (10), characterized in that in  
8 connection with the coating of the high tensile strength  
9 fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based alloy,  
10 ceramic particles (13) are embedded in the coating of the  
11 fibers, ~~whereby~~ and then the thusly coated fibers are  
12 arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated to form the  
13 semifinished product.

1 17. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 16,  
2 characterized in that the coating of the high tensile  
3 strength fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based  
4 alloy is carried out under a reactive atmosphere.

1 18. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 17,  
2 characterized in that the coating of the high tensile  
3 strength fibers (12) with titanium or the titanium based  
4 alloy is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere as the

5        reactive atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms together with  
6        titanium particles or particles of the titanium based alloy  
7        deposit the ceramic particles (13) into the coating.

1        19. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18,  
2        characterized in that the ceramic particles (13) ~~in the~~  
3        form comprise particles of titanium nitrides that are  
4        deposited into the coating.

1        20. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 16,  
2        characterized in that the coating is carried out as PVD  
3        ~~coating, preferably as sputtering.~~ coating.

1        21. (New) Method according to claim 20, wherein the PVD coating  
2        comprises sputtering.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]